

Message Text

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67

ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, TSPA, XG, UR, AS, CA, JA

SUBJ: MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE SYSTEM

REF: STATE 617

J.S. STANFORD, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, LEGAL ADVISORY DIVISION, EXTAFF, ON JANUARY 7 ADVISED TCO GOC WOULD WELCOME VISIT BY US TEAM AND INDICATED EARLY DATE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY DESIRABLE IN VIEW OF MECHANICS FOR SECURING CABINET APPROVAL DELEGATION PSOTIONS. UNDER STANDING REGULATIONS INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM OUTLINING PROPOSED MAJOR POSITIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED THREE MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF CONFERENCE OPENING. THIS WOULD BE LATTER PART OF JANUARY. IT IS DIFFICULT TO MAKE CHANGES IN THESE PROPOSED POSITIONS AFTER SUBMISSION UNLESS THERE DEVELOPS INTERMINISTERIAL DISAGREEMENT. AT PRESENT TIME INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE IS WORKING ON ITS MEMORANDUM, AND THERE IS A SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSING NATURE OF PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH STANFORD EXPECTS WOULD BE MAIN AREA OF CONCERN TO US TEAM.

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2. PRESENT SUBCOMMITTEE THINKING IS THAT ASSUMING A MARITIME SATELLITE SYSTEM IS TO BE ESTABLISHED THERE SHOULD BE A SMALL INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH POLICY AND WOULD CONTRACT OUT FOR THE SUPPLY OF TECHNICAL SERVICES. IF THE US HOPES TO DISSUADE THE GOC FROM TAKING THIS APPROACH BILATERAL TALKS SHOULD TAKE PLACE EARLY (PERHAPS IN JANUARY) RATHER THAN LATER. STANFORD INDICATED HIS EXPECTATION THAT THE FULL INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE (CHAIRED BY EARL F. PORTER, DIRECTOR GENERAL, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS BUREAU, MOT, AND INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF FINANCE AND COMMUNICATIONS AS WELL AS EXTAFF) WILL ALSO ENDORSE THIS APPROACH BUT STATED THAT THIS IS NOT COMPLETELY ASSURED AT THIS POINT IN TIME.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION PORTER EMPHASIZED PRESENT GREAT FLEXIBILITY ON PART OF GOC AND EUROPE IN THIS AREA. ALTHOUGH HE VERIFIED THE RIGIDITY OF CABINET MECHANICS, HE INDICATED HOPE THAT CANDEL AT LONDON CONFERENCE WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE SUCH FLAXIBILITY. (THERE APPEARED TO BE A DIFFERENCE IN EMPAHSIS BETWEEN STANFORD AND PORTER ON THIS POINT). THE MAJOR CONSTRAINT ON THE CANADIAN POSITION, PORTER STATED, WOULD PROBABLY BE THE FINANCIAL ONE IN THAT GOC WOULD FAVOR AN ORGANIZATIONAL SYSTEM WHICH WOULD BE LEAST COSTLY. WHILE THIS DID NOT LOCK GOC INTO THE POSITION BEING DEVELOPED BY ITS SUBCOMMITTEE, IT DID APPEAR TO RULE OUT SUPPORT FOR ANY EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A LARGE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION PROVIDING FULL TECHNICAL SERVICES AS THIS WOULD BE TOO COSTLY AN ENTERPRISE. PORTER LIKEWISE INDICATED ACTIVE INTEREST IN EARLY MEETING WITH US TEAM BUT INDICATED THAT UNLESS THIS IS SCHEDULED BEFORE JANUARY 23 HE PERSONALLY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND. (HE IS SCHEDULED TO BE IN AUSTRALIA THE WEEK OF JANUARY 27 FOR AN AEROSAT MEETING, ON VACATION IN FLRIDA THROUGH MOST OF FEBRUARY, AND TO DEPART FOR ANOTHER AEROSAT MEETING IN SPAIN ON MARCH 1.)

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4. COMMENT: EMBASSY ENDORSES SUGGESTION THAT TALKS WITH GOC BE SCHEDULED EARLY IN HOPE THAT WE CAN THUS AVOID GOC BEING LOCKED INTO POSITIONS OPPOSED TO THOSE OF US AT APRIL IMCO CONFERENCE AND WHICH WE MIGHT NOW HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE FAVORABLY. SHOULD WASHINGTON TEAM BE UNABLE SCHEDULE EARLY VISIT TO OTTAWA, EMBASSY WILLING UNDERTAKE PRELIMINARY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS UPON RECEIPT OF APPROPRIATE

GUIDANCE. PORTER

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